

Regular Meeting Minutes—City of Plantersville
January 29, 2024

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Plantersville, Grimes County, Texas, met in Special Session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 29, 2024, in Town Hall, 11335 Lodge Lane, Plantersville, Texas.

Members Present:

Karen Hale, Mayor	Frank Dean, Alderman
Kim Allphin, Mayor Pro-Tem	Carolyn Kurten, Alderman
Marilyn Bettes, Alderman, Secretary	

Visitors: City Attorney, Bridgette Begle, John Nicks, Sandra Kuta, Tony Mock, Charles Collins, Trenia Collins, Deen Miller, David Eppley, Linda Eppley, David Tullos, John Greenwood, David Waters, Justin Correa

1. Call to Order: Quorum established. Mayor Hale called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The invocation was given by Alderman Kim Allphin with pledges led by Mayor Hale.
2. Minutes of Regular Meeting: December 18, 2023
Motion to Approve: Alderman Allphin
Second: Alderman Kurten
Voting: Yes: Unanimous
Final Resolution: Motion carries
3. Public Comments:
David Eppley: Questioned Billboard Resolution. Why are there complaints; he thinks we need more billboards with no restriction.
John Greenwood: Requested consideration for No Engine Brake ordinance from CR 201 to RR and on to SH 105.
Sandra Kuta: Identified herself as major business owner in Plantersville; would like to be considered for vacancy left with death of Alderman Otis Greenwood; presented a list of her qualifications.
4. Invoices and items currently due and payable.
Discussion: Mayor Hale reviewed the invoices
Action – Motion to Approve: Alderman Dean
Second: Alderman Allphin
Voting: Yes: Unanimous
Final Resolution: Motion carries
5. Discuss/consider/approve: Items to be placed on future Agendas: None
6. Discuss/consider/approve: Cybersecurity Awareness Training Assessment of Knowledge (Test)
All are required to complete training and submit completion forms. Mayor Hale reported Alderman Dean had not submitted his completion form. He stated that he is exempt from the training because he spends less than 25% of his time on City Business and furthermore, there is no City Equipment. The City Attorney suggested Mayor Hale certify, by name, those completing the test when filing the report.
7. Discuss/consider/approve: City Election is May 4, 2024
 - a. First Day to File for A Place on the Ballot is Wednesday, January 17, 2024; Last Day to File for a Place on the Ballot is Friday, February 16, 2024 at 5:00 pm
 - b. Joint Election Agreement: with Grimes County Elections Administrator
Discussion: Cost of election is determined by City Size/percentage by number of voters; cost-\$2,000-3,000
Action – Motion to Approve: Alderman Dean
Second: Alderman Kurten
Voting: Yes: Unanimous

Final Resolution: Motion carries

c. Order the Election

Discussion: Early voting in Anderson and Navasota

Motion to Approve: Alderman Dean

Second: Alderman Allphin

Voting: Unanimous

Final Resolution: Motion passes

8. Discuss/consider/approve: Commissioner David Tullos Report on County/Precinct Activity 2023: discuss county/city interactions and projects 2024
Discussion: Commissioner Tullos stated one of his personal goals has been to facilitate communication between city/county. He moved on to new things happening: county has hired a new County Road and Bridge Engineer who has already been making changes in the standards for roads, drainage, ditches, etc.; additional staff has been added to the GC Sheriff's Department and the Jail; a second new building is in the works so that all county employees are housed in the same area—proposed completion, mid-2025. The Commissioner brought copies of the new Interlocal Agreement and asked that Council members review for later discussion—he specifically mentioned the Utility Installation portion and an inserted Nuisance Agreement; there is still not agreement regarding service areas for the Fire Departments—suggested incorporation of an agreement within that states PSVFD will serve City of Plantersville area. ETJ Development Variance procedures bypassed.; Developers must first come to city before submitting to county. They proposed changes to the Ordinance and then county/city decide if yes or no. Commissioner asked if questions from the Board: Alderman Dean asked which county department oversees VFD budgets. It is handled by Emergency Management—there was an increase from \$40,000 to \$45,000 (there is no city finance available). There are funds from the “run pool” that are divided according to the number of runs (calls) during the year. The Commissioner recommended a contract between the City of Plantersville and the PSVFD. Alderman Bettes asked the Mayor if this was what we proposed sometime ago? The proposal was taken to the PSVFD's attorney who said it was of no benefit to the VFD. Commissioner Tullos recommended something be added to the Interlocal Agreement. Mayor Hale acknowledged the Commissioner's contact with her and the City.
9. Discuss/consider/approve: Resolution 45-24 designating Navasota Examiner as official newspaper for city
Discussion: The Mayor reminded the council that the City is required to do this every year.
Action – Motion to Approve: Alderman Allphin
Second: Alderman Kurten
Voting: Unanimous
Final Resolution: Motion carries
10. Discuss/consider/approve: Walking Quorum
Discussion: City Attorney stated there is no meeting without a quorum present. The official City of Plantersville quorum is four (4) Alderman or the Mayor and three (3) Aldermen, as stated in the Texas Local Government Code 23.028. Violation is considered a Misdemeanor. The previous conflict which caused this discussion was between 3 Board Members and a non-member. Mayor may communicate with all members if scheduling is involved.
11. Discuss/consider/approve: Billboard Ordinance
Discussion: Initially Alderman Kurten, before any discussion, moved to table the Billboard Ordinance and Alderman Dean seconded. There was discussion between Kurten, Dean and Bettes. Alderman Bettes explained that billboards were an issue from day 1 of incorporation and the mayor continues to receive calls about the original discussions about an ordinance. With input from our attorney, the Motion was changed to read: *Postpone the ordinance for further review and citizen input with an audit of current signage before next discussion.*
Action – Motion to Approve: Alderman Kurten
Second: Alderman Dean
Voting: Unanimous

Final Resolution: Motion carries

12. Discuss: PSVFD Report: The Regular Report was given by Interim Fire Chief David Waters. He opened with stating the PSVFD Annual Bazaar will be April 7 and recognized Mayor Hale and Alderman Bettes as members of the event planning committee. The big news: a new to PSVFD fire truck is about to be in service. The report regarded calls, current vehicles in service and number of active/inactive volunteer fire personnel (3 less than last report due to moving out of the area). Fire Chief Waters stated the PSVFD Board of Directors is working together with the firefighters for the good of the PSVFD. Alderman Dean questioned the #1 need of PSVFD? The answer: tooling needs for outfitting each apparatus...\$75,000-\$100,000. Recently 4 new radios were purchased at a cost of \$10,000 each; state allotted \$15,000 toward training. Additional department funding comes from Grants as well as donations from the community.
13. Board Update discussion: Items of community interest (no action may be discussed, except to put on an agenda).
February 26—Fentanyl Presentation, sponsored by PTH; High Point Elementary, 6:30 pm
March 1—PTH Annual Fish Fry and Raffle, St. Mary Family Center, 6:00 pm
April 7—PSVFD Annual Bazaar/Fundraiser, PSVFD Fire Station, 11:00 am
14. Executive Session/Closed Meeting: Pursuant to Section 551.074 of Texas Government Code to deliberate appointment of Alderman to fill vacancy. Board went into Closed Session at 8:07 pm after the room was cleared of all visitors.
15. Return to open meeting: 8:46 pm. No action.
14. Mayor Hale adjourned the meeting at 8:48 pm.

Approved

Attest

Karen Hale, Mayor

Marilyn Bettes, Secretary

Date: _____

Date: _____